

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2004/0169659 of Kagawa et al. ("Kagawa") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0053246 of Tachibana et al. ("Tachibana").

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 4-10 to more appropriately define the invention. Claims 1-10 remain pending.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-10 under Sect. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kagawa and Tachibana.

Applicant's claimed invention is directed to overcoming problems associated with the color identification of character objects that compete in a competitive game processed by a computer. As explained in the Background section of the present application, while it is desirable for users of the competitive game to choose color schemes for identifying their game characters, problems can result if the respective color schemes of the competing characters can not be distinguished from one another. Applicant's invention, as recited in claim 1, overcomes such problems by providing a computer program which causes a computer system to perform steps including receiving a specification of colors constituting a color design for a first character object of the competitive game, converting the specified color design of the first character object in accordance with a predetermined color converting rule, and considering the colors obtained by such converting as colors constituting a color scheme of the second character object of the competitive game. Thus, the color scheme for the second character object is determined from the color design for the first character object in accordance with the predetermined color converting rule. As a result, a distinction in

respective color designs of the competing first and second characters of the competitive game can be ensured based on the predetermined color converting rule.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, several basic criteria must be met. These criteria include that the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim elements. See M.P.E.P. § 2143.

Neither Kagawa nor Tachibana disclose or suggest Applicant's invention as recited in claim 1 including, at least, a computer program for causing a computer system to execute processing for automatically generating color design for first and second character objects that compete in a competitive game, including steps of receiving specification of colors constituting a color design for the first character object, converting the colors specified for the first character object in accordance with a previously determined color converting rule, and considering the colors obtained by converting as colors constituting a color design for the second character object. Neither Kagawa nor Tachibana disclose or suggest any subject matter relating to a competitive game, first and second objects that compete in a competitive game, or obtaining colors of a design for a second character object by converting colors constituting a color design of a first character object, with which the second character object competes in a competitive game, in accordance with a previously determined color converting rule.

Since Kagawa and Tachibana separately or in combination fail to disclose or suggest all the elements of Applicants' independent claim 1, claim 1 is patentable thereover. Claims 2-10 are also patentable over Kagawa and Tachibana at least due to their dependence from claim 1.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that pending claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance. A favorable action is requested.

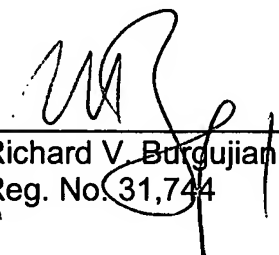
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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